

their lives on September 11th. Their presence can never be replaced, and their absence remains with all of us.

I have met many of the families who lost loved ones in the terror attacks, and I share their pain having lost a cousin and many friends myself that day. I know that the pain of that day does not simply disappear with the passage of time. Today, we not only offer our enduring respect to those who died we honor their friends and families who carry on with their lives.

We must never forget that the attack by Al-Qaeda on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were not just an attack on those inside the buildings. They were attacks on the United States of America. The terrorists believed that September 11th would weaken Americans, our values and our way of life. They were wrong. We will not rest until justice is served to those who attacked and murdered innocent American civilians.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CALPINE CORPORATION

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calpine Corporation on the 50th Anniversary of their commercial operations at The Geysers in Lake County, California.

Calpine Corporation owns and operates the world's largest renewable geothermal power facility at The Geysers. The company's 15 geothermal power plants there are capable of generating up to 725 megawatts of baseload renewable, green energy around the clock.

Calpine is expanding its production at The Geysers through wastewater discharge projects in which clean, reclaimed wastewater from local municipalities is recycled into the geothermal fields where it is converted to steam for electricity production. This provides an environmentally-sound wastewater discharge solution for the neighboring cities and increases the long-term productivity of The Geysers.

In addition to The Geysers, Calpine operates natural gas fueled power plants in 21 states and Canada. Its 93 power plants have nearly 29,000 megawatts of generating capacity. It is the nation's largest operator of combined-cycle and cogeneration plants.

In April 2010, the California Department of Conservation recognized Calpine for its ongoing commitment to safety and the environment for its facilities at The Geysers.

At The Geysers, Calpine owns and operates the Cartwright Geothermal Visitors Center, a 6,500 square foot learning center that is open to the public. More than 60,000 visitors from all 50 states and 77 countries have visited the center. Calpine regularly hosts open houses for the community and guided tours of its plants there.

The 330 full-time Calpine employees at The Geysers volunteer in the community and each year host a popular Earth Day event and contribute to the Blood Bank of the Redwoods and United Way. Calpine helps underwrite local paramedic services, community pools, sports fields and recreation areas.

Madam Speaker, Calpine Corporation is an industry leader and one of the leading community partners in my district. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on the 50th Anniversary of their operations at The Geysers.

#### TYLER SPARKS

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Sparks. Tyler is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tyler has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a member of the Order of the Arrow. Tyler has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tyler designed and constructed 6 raised historical gardens at Watkins Mill State Park outside of Kearney, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Sparks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### HONORING AMERICAN TROOPS WHO DIED ON D-DAY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on June 6, 1944—D-Day—Allied forces crossed the English Channel to land in Normandy, France. Code-named Operation Overlord, the Normandy landing remains the most massive and complex opposed amphibious invasion in history.

With tremendous courage, the Allies pushed entrenched German forces back from the beaches of Normandy. Thus began the liberation of France and the massive campaign that would ensure the defeat of Nazi Germany in western Europe.

American leadership and the courageous sacrifices made by American servicemen and women were essential to the success of the operation. Led by President Franklin Roosevelt, Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and General Omar Bradley, American soldiers and airmen sacrificed dearly to defend the United States, our allies, and the world against the savage aggression of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers.

Today, let us honor the courage and sacrifice of those thousands of brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to de-

fend the American people and the people of the world from tyranny.

INTRODUCING H.R. 6127—"EXTENSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED AT QARMAT ALI ACT"

#### HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, H.R. 6127, the Extension of Health Care Eligibility for Veterans who Served at Qarmat Ali Act, to extend the VA healthcare enrollment period for certain veterans who served in the Qarmat Ali region of Iraq.

Soon after the conflict in Iraq began in 2003, Army National Guard units from my home state of Indiana as well as units from Oregon, West Virginia, and South Carolina and National Guardsmen mobilized as individual augmentees from across the nation were called up and tasked with guarding the Qarmat Ali water treatment facility.

For 6 months—from April to September—these National Guardsmen from across the nation bravely guarded the plant, located just outside Basra. Their mission was to secure the facility and provide protective services for the independent contractors who were working throughout the region to restore Iraqi oil production.

Recently, they have been notified of their possible exposure to a toxic chemical known as sodium dichromate and are being asked to come forward, be evaluated, and enroll in VA's Gulf War Registry. Health problems associated with such exposure include respiratory issues, skin lesions, and burns. Contact may cause increased rates of lung cancer and other ear, nose, throat, and skin disorders.

The men and women of these National Guard units completed their mission—and served our country—well. It was hard for me to discover that despite their safe return, their service may continue to put them at risk. In particular, I am very sensitive to the Hoosiers who may have been injured.

Under current law, combat veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of "hostilities" after November 11, 1998 are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system, notwithstanding sufficient evidence of service-connection, for five years following separation from service.

This includes members of the National Guard and Reserve who were activated and served in combat support or direct operations as long as they meet certain requirements.

When Congress established the 5 year period of open enrollment for VA health care it was with the understanding that some wounds of war may not manifest themselves until years after a veteran leaves military duty.

But despite our best intentions, we are finding that some veterans are faced with combat-related health problems that were not apparent even 5 years after the veteran re-entered civilian life. This creates a gap in services that unfairly penalizes these men and women for conditions out of their control.